

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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*Speak*

*NOTE  
NEW P.3  
TEXT*

NEAR EAST DEVELOPMENTS

25X1X8

25X6

[REDACTED]

... in the "bulge" north of Tel Aviv, on 10 October

... a new crisis for the faltering Jordan government.

The youthful (21 year old) King Hussain is fearful of a revolt in Jordan's restive population.

The King's position in his countrymen's eyes is about to be tested by elections for the lower house of Jordan's legislature (21 October).

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16  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S *BMC*  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
AUTH: *W. J. J.*  
DATE: *1-18-82*  
REVIEWER: 372044

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2. It is probable that these elections will show a leftist, anti-monarchical and ultra-nationalist trend in Jordan, favorable to Egypt and dangerous to the Hashemite dynasty.

B. Finally, Jordan's neighboring fellow-Arabs are watching Hussain's struggles with hungry eyes.

In an effort to hold his leadership, Hussain has attempted to assume the role of an ardent nationalist (although this posture also strengthens the very forces in Jordan which may bring him down).

A. He is for the same reason attempting to play off his Arab neighbors--competing to extend their influence into his country--against one another.

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Among Hussain's hungry allies, Iraq, with the encouragement of  
25X6

25X6

decided late in September to dispatch a small military 25X1X6  
force across the border to "support" Jordan. ~~ON 14 OCT~~ ~~TOLD~~  
~~THAT THE FORCE WOULD ENTER JORDAN ON 15 OCTOBER~~  
A. We do not yet have any confirmation that this Iraqi force has  
actually entered Jordan or even started to move.

A. Iraq's Arab rivals, although in a less favorable position to  
intervene militarily in Jordan, have reacted suspiciously to  
the Iraqi decision.

25X6

25X1X6

1. The Syrian [redacted] recently told [redacted] that  
if the Iraqis intervened in Jordan, simultaneous action by  
all Arab states would follow. He stated that such action  
would involve Egyptian, as well as Syrian, forces.

2. A small Syrian armored force, possibly of battalion size, was moved to Dera, just north of the Jordan border, on 1 October.

B Egypt's capability to intervene militarily in Jordan is limited, because of Suez preoccupations.

1. Egyptian influence may be considerable, however, within units of Jordan's undisciplined National Guard, which has been partly armed by Cairo.
2. Clandestine armed groups under Egyptian direction are known to be operating in Jordan--apparently outside the control of the Jordan government--and these could also serve Egyptian interests.

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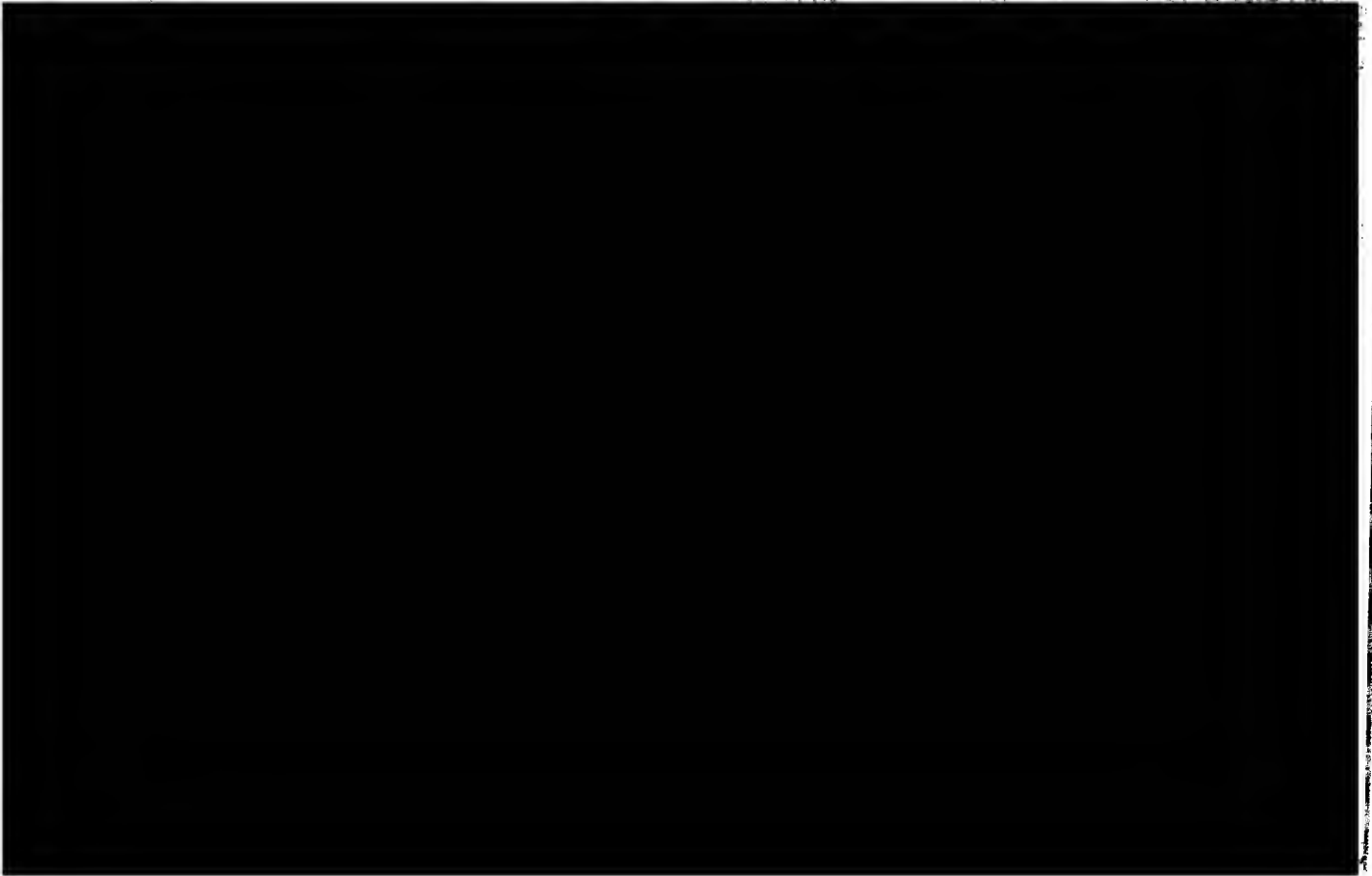
3. Influential groups of young officers both in Jordan's army and in the National Guard--possibly including Chief of Staff Muwar--are believed to favor Egypt's line of anti-monarchical nationalism.
4. Finally, the Egyptian high command is currently in covert contact with the large, leftist, anti-monarchical Baath Party, and with the "free officer's" group in the Jordan Army.

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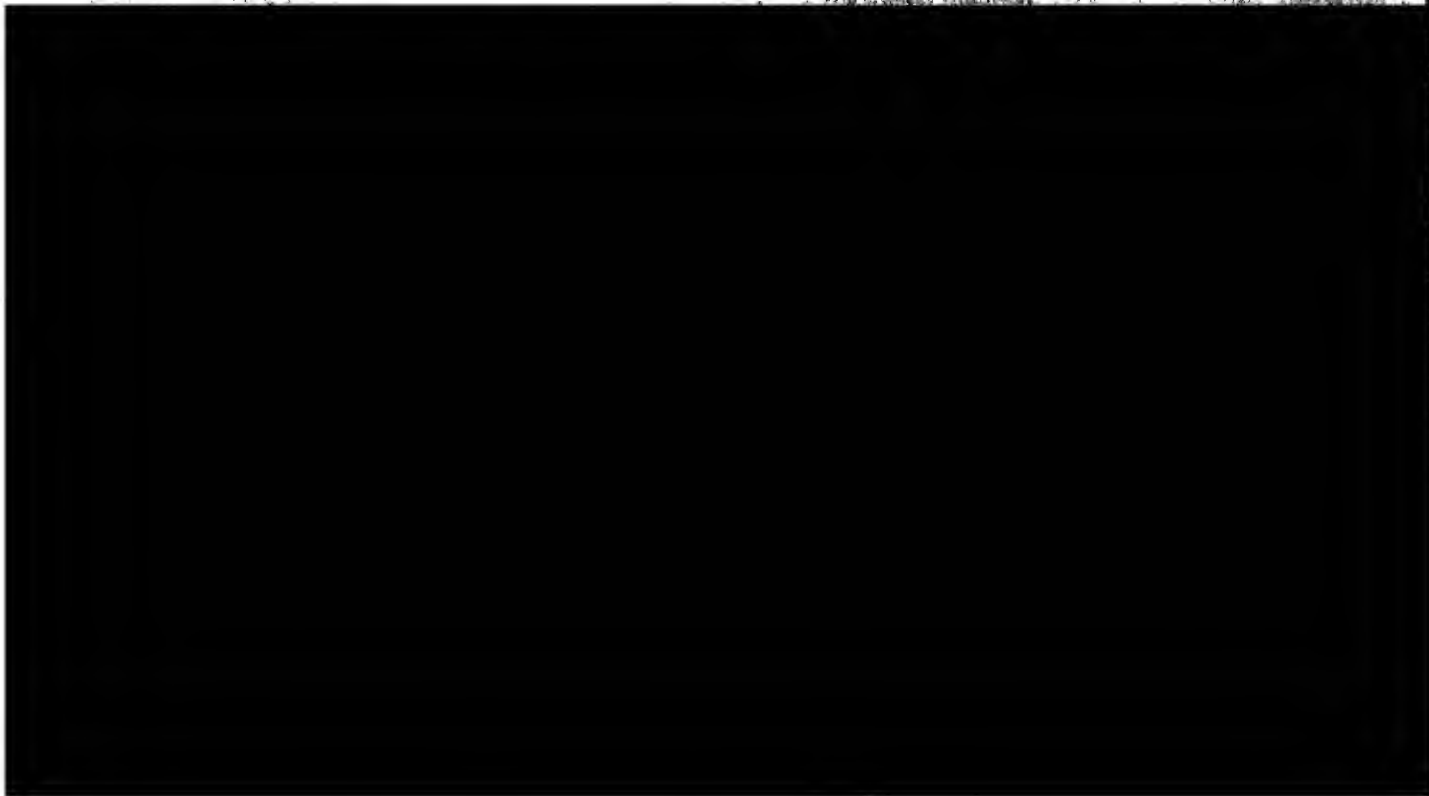
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